

planation of transportation. The action which arranged the semi-stratified Drift must have been exerted by water rather than ice. But we leave the subject now to your thoughts. You may speculate as much as you please for the purpose of forming a complete theory. You will find such occupation interesting and profitable. By and by we shall come upon this subject again from another direction. (Talk XLVII.)

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#### IV. AMONG THE GLACIERS.

##### GEOLOGICAL ACTION OF GLACIERS.

PERHAPS it is best to pause at once and contemplate a fuller sketch of some living glaciers. We indulged in a little speculation about the cause of the Drift. We argued that glaciers must perform a work pretty nearly such as the Drift required; and I cited you to Alpine glaciers as actually exemplifying this kind of work. But come, now, let us take a closer look at Alpine glaciers. The scenes are abundant in picturesque interest as well as instruction.

About fifty miles from Geneva lies the "vale of Chamoinix"—the classic valley of classic glaciers. Its axis lies nearly east and west, and the Arve, taking its rise from the east, flows through the length of the valley, and bends north to the Lake of Geneva. On the north, the valley is bounded by the sharp pinnacled Aiguilles Rouges (A-ghee-Roosj); on the south rises the stupendous mass of the Mont Blanc (Blahnc) range, nearly sixteen thousand feet above sea level. The rounded summit of the monarch mountain is silver white with perpetual snow. On one shoulder rises the Dome du Goûter, and on the other the Aiguille de Goûter (A-ghee-du-Goó-tay). For three thousand feet below the summit, compact snow covers the surface to an unknown depth. In one region below the Aiguille de Goûter, may be seen a long perpendicular cliff of snow left by a slide. It looks like a vast entablature to the glittering dome. This is said to be fifteen hundred feet in height. At the foot of the final dome